# **BREAKOUT SESSIONS User Focus Group #1: State Weather Information Needs**

### Weather Information for Surface Transportation

### **Breakout Session 1**

### State Weather Information Needs

## Session 1 - Leadership

**Co-Chairs:** Mr. Michael Adams, Wisconsin DOT

Dr. Wilfred Nixon, Univ of Iowa

**Rapporteurs:** Ms. Cynthia Nelson, *OFCM* 

Mr. Gary Nelson, FHWA-Mitretek

### Session 1 - Key Results

- Trigger Events
  - Temperature within +/- 1 m of surface
  - Precipitation: snow, rain, ice storms
  - Wind: drifting, vehicle stability, visibility
  - Black ice
  - Visibility: fog, blowing dust, snow
- Specifics/details
  - Wide range of users, locations, sophistication
  - Continuous/area versus point forecast
  - Need to assess ranges of values

### Session 1 - Key Results(2)

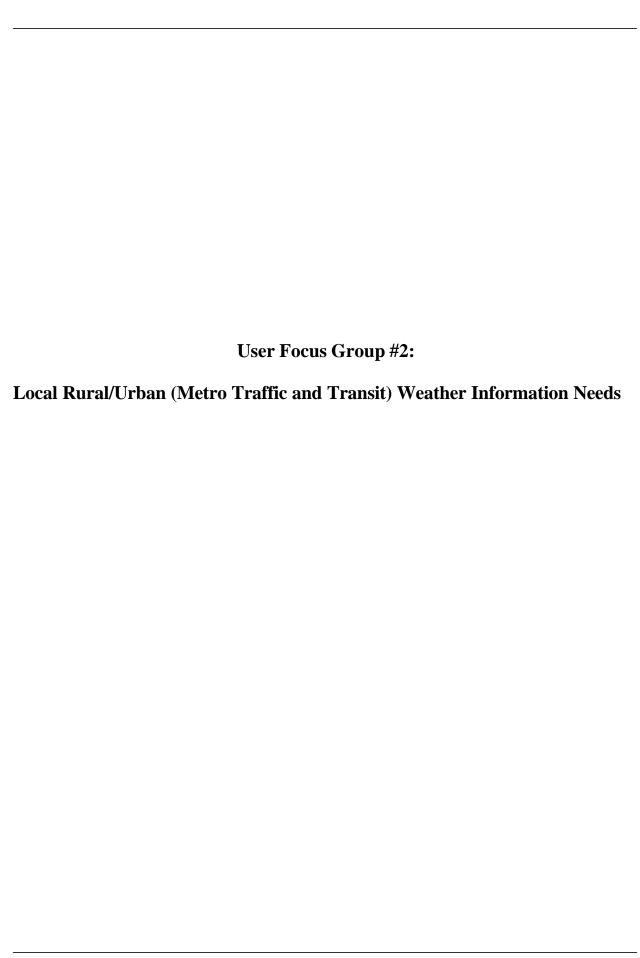
- Standards/Formats
  - Standardization important--coordinated by federal agencies
  - Standardization for both input and output--data and displays
  - Standard warning criteria across geopolitical boundaries
  - Data gathering and collections public, open, free

E.g., GIS, ITS, weather data formats, common communication formats.

## Session 1 - Key Results(3)

### Other

- Liability and believability
- More observations, finer resolution (water, land; buoys, pavement sensors, mobile, etc.)
- Training and certification for users
- Post storm verification
- Cost-benefit analysis
- Shared infrastructure
- Fusion of traffic and weather information
- Operational coordination of maintenance and management
- Technology transfer



### Weather Information for Surface Transportation

### **Breakout Session 2**

Local Rural/Urban (Metro Traffic and Transit) Weather Information Needs

### Session 2 - Leadership

**Co-Chairs:** Mr. Douglas Jonas, *Matrix* 

Management Group

Mr. Edward Boselly, Weather

Solutions, Inc.

**Rapporteurs:** Mr. James Harrison, OFCM

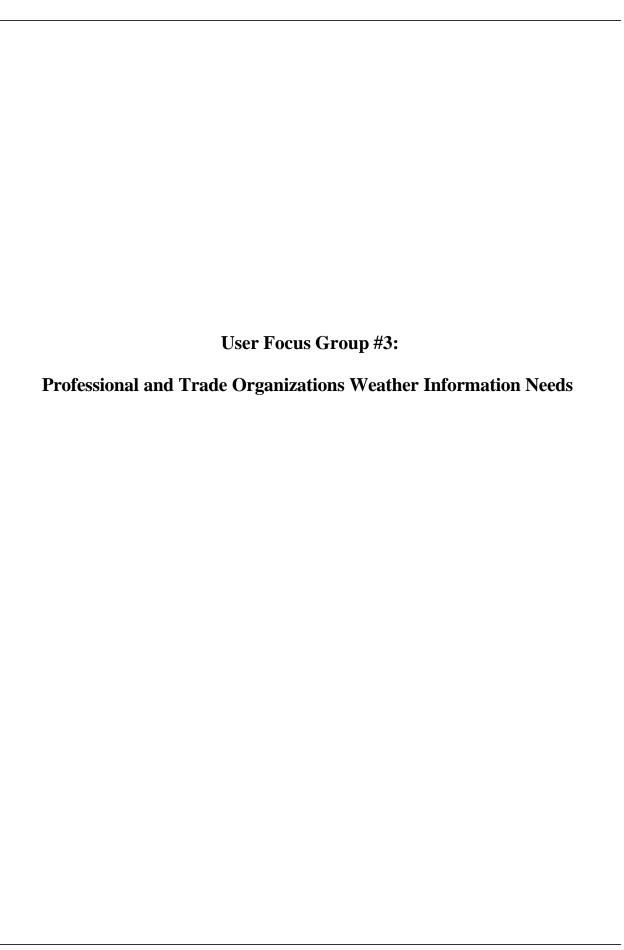
Mr. Floyd Hauth, STC

### Session 2 - Key Results

- Lead time is important consideration; amount of lead time varies with application and operational environment
- There appears to be a need to understand the utility of tailored forecasts in lieu of multiple sources of non-specific weather information
- The observation network is insufficient to meet the needs of the surface transportation community

### Session 2 - Key Results(2)

- There is a need for forecast of small-scale features to describe highly localized conditions such as fog
- The placement of decision making is different among the various modes of transportation, and requires recognition by weather information providers
- Forecasts of <u>good</u> weather are also valuable to the decision makers



### Weather Information for Surface Transportation

### **Breakout Session 3**

Professional Associations and Trade Organizations Weather Information Needs

### Session 3 - Leadership

**Chair:** Mr. Kevin Hiett, AAA

**Rapporteurs:** Mr. Thomas Piwowar, STC

Mr. Thomas Fraim, OFCM

### Session 3 - Key Results

- Need NWS product catalog
- Need weather information product education and training for operators leads to credibility
- Place list of requirements factors on web site - as interim measure
- Keep requirements questionnaire on web site
- Recognize that requirements process is iterative

# Session 3 - Key Results

### **List of Requirements Factors**

- Needs/Requirements: Need to be identified and refined
- Comprehensive/Breadth focus on <u>major</u> requirements
- Recognize geographic location dependence
- Keep in mind the vehicle type/infrastructure object of interest
- Independence of implementation
- Decision criteria
  - Define thresholds: fixed and varying
  - Relevance

## Session 3 - Key Results

# List of Requirements Factors (cont'd)

- Lead time and updates (real time)
- Accuracy and credibility
- Accessibility
  - Readability
  - Dissemination
  - Availability
  - Reliability